

## APPENDIX A

1       1. (Amended) Apparatus comprising:  
2                   a first supply source of sterile air;  
3                   a supply source of sterilant;  
4                   an atomizing system producing an atomized sterilant  
5       from the mixing of the sterile air from the first supply source  
6       of sterile air with the sterilant;  
7                   a second supply source of a hot sterile air for  
8       providing the hot sterile air to the atomized sterilant;  
9                   a probe extending into an interior of a container for  
10      applying the atomized sterilant into the [an] interior of the [a]  
11      container; and  
12                   a third supply source of a hot sterile drying air for  
13      activating and drying the sterilant in the interior of the  
14      container.

1       11. (Amended) A method comprising:  
2                   providing a first supply of sterile air;  
3                   providing a supply of sterilant;  
4                   producing an atomized sterilant by mixing the first  
5       supply of sterile air with the sterilant;  
6                   providing a second supply of hot sterile air to the  
7       atomized sterilant;

8                   providing a probe extending into an interior of a  
9 container for applying the atomized sterilant into the [an]  
10 interior of the [a] container; and

11                   supplying a third supply of hot sterile drying air for  
12 activating and drying the sterilant in the interior of the  
13 container.

1       21. (Amended) Apparatus comprising:

2                   means for supplying a first source of sterile air;  
3                   means for supplying a source of sterilant;  
4                   means for providing an atomizing system for producing  
5                   an atomized sterilant from the mixing of sterile air from the  
6                   first source of sterile air with the sterilant;

7                   means for supplying a second source of hot sterile air  
8                   to the atomized sterilant;

9                   means for applying the atomized sterilant to an  
10 interior of a container by extending a probe into the interior of  
11 the container; and

12                   means for supplying a third source of hot sterile  
13 drying air into the interior of the container for activating and  
14 drying the sterilant.